

MERVILLE SECTOR BEARING BRUNT OF FIERCE BATTLE

THOMAS CARDEN CONFESSES TO EARLE MURDER

Charges His Pal, Bert Long,
With Actual Crime of Cut-
ting Soldier's Throat.

MYSTERY OF PARK SOLVED

Charles L. Earle Killed for
Purpose of Robbery.

Self-Confessed Participant of Murder Takes Officers to Scene and Explains Deed.

The confession of Thomas F. Carden Sunday morning at the Hamilton county jail that it was his "pal," Bert Long, who murdered Private Charles L. Earle, of Camp Forrest, the early part of March and that he was present and witnessed it, rings with that deliberateness and absolute recklessness of human life which characterized the plans for a wholesale jail delivery on last Thursday in which both Carden and Long, together with Frank King, are self-confessedly implicated and which was discovered in time to prevent a wholesale escape at the jail with a probable murder if necessary.

Carden said he was present when Long cut the soldier's throat with a razor and then robbed him of a large bank roll. He claims that he attempted to prevent Long from killing the soldier while he lay helpless on the ground, dazed from a blow that had been dealt him with a blackjack in the hands of Long.

The two men then left the soldier before he was dead and caught a car coming into the city.

Private Earle, it will be remembered, was found in the woods near Camp Forrest with his throat cut, and while he hovered between life and death for several days, he never regained consciousness sufficiently to reveal either the name or give a description of his assailant and not until Sunday morning was it known who his murderers and robbers were.

The confession of Carden was first made to Special Agent J. W. Hoyle, of the department of justice, and Day Jailer Charles Whitcomb and later to a News reporter and Night Jailer Aaron Ballew.

Again Monday morning Carden repeated to a News reporter the same story he had related on the preceding day.

Goes to Scene of Murder.
Sunday morning after the confession of Carden, Judge McKeeney was notified and he called at the county jail and gave his permission for Carden to be taken to the scene of the crime where he said he could locate the letter with which the murder was committed and which Long had thrown under a culvert near the scene of the murder and robbery.

Carden, further in his confession, said it was Long's wife with whom Long is desperately in love, who smuggled the saws which were found in his cell on last Thursday into the jail.

Long and Carden, it will be remembered, were on last Thursday sentenced to serve from six to twenty years in the state penitentiary for highway robbery.

After making the confession to the jail officials, Carden told her of how Bert Long had killed a soldier and that he was with him at the time. Carden, in his letter, which he began with a piece of poetry, confessed that he was in such deep trouble, but that he was going to take his medicine like a man. The letter was addressed to Carden's mother, Mrs. Jennie Wolfe, rural route No. 3, East Chattanooga. Both Carden and Long are natives of James county and at the time of the murder of Earle were living near the midway on the Rossville car line. The confession of Carden is as follows:

"On the day of the murder Long and his wife came to my house near Rossville to see my wife and I. They remained there until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when Long and I walked to Rossville and caught a Chickamauga park car. Near Park City Long said, 'Yonder goes a soldier who has some money; let's get off. This we did and we caught up with Earle, who Long evidently knew. Long always has been jealous of soldiers because his wife flirts with them all the time. Anyhow, we caught up with Earle and near a fence in the woods Long pulled a blackjack from his pocket and told Earle to get out. While he was going through the soldier's pockets Earle showed signs of coming to and Long, pulling a razor from his inside pocket, said, 'Fix him so he can't squeal' and whacked the razor across the prostrate soldier's throat. I yelled, 'Don't do that!' and turned my back.

COUNT CZERNIN RESIGNS OFFICE

Vienna Dispatch Says Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister
Has Stepped Down.

OUTCOME PEACE APPEAL

Publication by France of Emperor's Letter Not Explained to Germany's Satisfaction.

WASHINGTON INTERESTED IN REPORTED ACTION

Washington, April 15.—No official word of the reported resignation of Count Czernin has been received by the government today, but all officials were deeply interested in the report, and it was recognized that the development was the outgrowth of Czernin's declaration that France had been ready to make peace.

Amsterdam, April 15.—Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, according to a dispatch from Vienna, has resigned.

Emperor Charles accepted the resignation and entrusted Count Czernin with the conduct of foreign affairs until his successor is appointed.

Claim Letter Was Forged.

An official statement received here today from Vienna asserts that the latest statements of the French premier, M. Clemenceau, concerning the conversations between Austria and France regarding the possibility of opening peace negotiations do not alter the situation as regards the majority of Count Czernin's declarations. The Austrian foreign ministry, the statement says, is unable to ascertain who was responsible for delivering to the French what is said to have been a forged letter, substituted for the letter which was to have been delivered. Neither Prince Sixtus, whose character is beyond suspicion, nor any one else is accused of falsification, continues the statement, which concludes: "The affair is herewith declared to be at an end."

The recent publication by the French government of the futile peace appeal sent out by Emperor Charles of Austria-Hungary, in March, 1917, and the efforts of the emperor and the Austro-Hungarian foreign office to explain this letter to the satisfaction of Germany and the German emperor probably were the most potent influence in bringing about the resignation of Count Czernin.

Since he was appointed foreign minister, on Dec. 23, 1916, in succession to Baron Buriak, Count Czernin has been very active in attempting to bring about peace and the moderate tone of his speeches has been in sharp contrast with that of the German chancellors and the foreign secretaries. However, his participation in the forced peace upon Russia, as well as that upon Rumania, did not show that his actions kept step with his words.

Doubt as to Honesty.

In the "peace offensive" of the present year, Count Czernin, in the Austrian reichsrath on Jan. 25, suggested an exchange of views between Austria-Hungary and the United States. He announced that Austria had entered into negotiations with Russia on the policy of no annexation or indemnities, but there always was some doubt whether his pacifist maneuvers were honest or were inspired by Berlin in an effort to bring about a split among the entente allies.

Count Czernin, on April 4, in an address at Vienna declared that Premier Clemenceau had sought in the negotiations with Austria. The French premier replied that Count Czernin lied. The French and Austrian foreign offices then issued statements explaining the unofficial negotiations in Switzerland.

Early last week the French government declared that Emperor Charles and Count Czernin had agreed that the claim of France to Alsace-Lorraine was just. This brought a denial from Emperor Charles in the form of a telegram to Emperor William, in whom he reiterated his loyalty to the German cause and denied that he had Alsace-Lorraine returned.

The statement brought from the French government the publication of a letter from Emperor Charles to his brother-in-law, Prince Sixtus, which the emperor asked be given to President Poincaré. In the letter the emperor said that France should have Alsace-Lorraine and that Belgium and Serbia should be restored. He also asked that London and Paris be left out as to probable peace terms.

German newspapers have attacked both Emperor Charles and his foreign secretary because of this letter and at the same time have said that it was not written by the emperor. It has been reported in Vienna that there was no attempt to hide its authenticity, but that the French version was garbled. It has also been reported that the letter was written by the emperor's mother-in-law.

Count Czernin is in Rumania when the letter was published by the French government and he was summoned to Vienna Friday.

Count Ottokar Czernin von Chudenitz, a wealthy Bohemian landowner, was minister to Russia when that country entered the war. Within six weeks after the death of Emperor Francis Joseph, Count Czernin was appointed foreign minister by Emperor Charles. Count Czernin is a very close friend of Count Berchtold, foreign minister at the outbreak of the war, and who had been represented as the political mentor of the young emperor. Count Berchtold has been opposed to the pan-German war party and his resignation was brought about by them.

FOOD FOR THE EAGLE



FLYING INSTRUCTOR IN FATAL TAIL SPIN DROP

San Antonio, Tex., April 15.—Lieut. E. B. Markham, a flying instructor at Kelly field, an American aviation camp, was instantly killed today when the machine in which he was flying with a cadet dropped into a tail spin from a height of 200 feet. The cadet, whose name was not given out, was not seriously hurt. Lieut. Markham's home was in Turin, N. Y.

FRENCH ATTACK INHANGARD AREA

Local Operation Carried Out
With Complete Success—150
Prisoners at One Point.

SEVERAL RAIDS EFFECTIVE

Activity Between Montdidier
and Noyon, in the Champagne,
Results Well for Allies.

Paris, April 15.—On the front above Montdidier, the French made a successful local attack last night, taking prisoners, the war office announces.

The statement follows: "In the region of Hangard, the French carried out a local operation with complete success and took ten prisoners. Since April 12 we have taken 150 prisoners in this sector."

"Between Montdidier and Noyon in the Champagne south of Mont Tely we carried out several raids and brought back prisoners. A German effort north of the Chemin-des-Dames, southeast of Corbeny, was without success. There were intermittent bombardments at several points on the front."

Sociological Congress Opens Session in Birmingham

Birmingham, Ala., April 15.—The morning session of the seventh annual meeting of the southern sociological congress, being held here, was opened with an address by Dr. C. W. Stiles, of the United States public health service.

Among other things Dr. Stiles declared that any act on the part of an individual or community that is likely to interfere with public health at a time when it is our duty to put on the western battle front the greatest possible number of soldiers, in the best possible health, must be viewed as, consciously or unconsciously, unpatriotic and pro-German.

Gen. Pershings Casualty List Includes Eight Officers—Col. R. C. Bolling Reported Captured or Missing

Washington, April 15.—The casualty list for the week ending April 13, published today, shows that eight officers were killed in action, 1 died of wounds, 3 died of disease, 7 were severely wounded, 4 were wounded slightly, 27 were missing in action.

Col. R. C. Bolling is reported as captured or missing in today's casualty list. Eight other officers are named: Capt. Hyman Green and Lieut. John Alexander Curran were severely wounded and Capt. Wakeman G. Gribbel and Lieut. Arthur S. Bugher, Geo. W. Donnell, Hamon Gray, Thomas F. Hale, Reuben A. Moser, Corpls. Ernest W. Birch, Geo. D. Oliver, Hugler Clyde L. Jones.

Privates Geo. A. Brusco, Jos. Brescia, Thomas F. Crookan, Geo. V. Day, Herbert, Wm. E. Gould, Wm. C. Harshey, Fred A. Huff, Thomas J. Kilty, Frank Lissio, Carl C. Luedeking, Peter Peterson, Carl W. Potte, Edward Schneider, Walenty Snydki, Wilfred C. Trabue, Frank A. Uffelman, Russell T. Walker, John J. West.

Captured or Missing.
Col. R. C. Bolling, named in today's casualty list as captured or missing in action was identified by war department officials as R. C. Bolling, of New York, assistant general counsel of the U. S. Steel corporation, who was commissioned in the signal corps soon after war was declared.

City of Wilmington Burned Off Coast of Nova Scotia

New York, April 15.—The American steamship which was burned off the coast of Nova Scotia Saturday night was identified here today as the City of Wilmington, former the Barbours line steamer Calino. She was a vessel of 2,309 tons gross and was on a voyage from a southern port for Europe with a cargo of "ton and flour."

Czernin's Resignation Has Been Expected

London, April 15.—Although there was an element of surprise in the news of Count Czernin's resignation, it had been more or less expected. A well-informed person here since Premier Clemenceau's revelation of Emperor Charles' advances to France. The fall of the foreign minister is regarded generally as a propitiatory sacrifice for the imperial master's letter to Prince Sixtus, and as being dictated by Berlin.

The suggestion in Vienna advices that the count was ignorant of the emperor's letter implies the view that his resignation became intolerable after the French government gave it out. Some German newspapers last week deplored the young emperor's letter as another instance of interference by the monarchs in state affairs without the advice of their ministers, leading to unfortunate consequences. Other causes probably contributed to some extent to Count Czernin's retirement. He has been constantly at odds with the Czechs, and as lately as April 2 once more aroused their indignation by a speech in Vienna in which he accused them of treachery.

Steel Corporation Stock Jumps in Price

New York, April 15.—Publication of the statement of E. H. Gary, chairman of the United States steel corporation, of the stockholders' meeting in Hoboken, led to a big turnover in the corporation's common shares in the stock market here this afternoon, with the issue recording a gain of 1 1/2 to 2 1/2.

INJUNCTION RESTRAINS REMOVAL RAILWAY SHOPS

Washington, April 15.—Injunctions restraining the International and Great Northern railroad from moving its shops and roundhouses from Palestine, Tex., and to compel the company to remove its general offices from Houston to Palestine, were today sustained by the supreme court. The proceedings were brought under the state office-shops statute of 1885 requiring railroads to maintain their general offices at points designated in the charters or where agreed upon by contract. Residents of Palestine claimed that under a contract made in 1873, and renewed two years later, the company agreed to establish its shops and offices there.

WAGING BATTLE TO ANNIHILATE

Sole Aim of Enemy Is to Destroy British Armies—Turning Point Near.

NO GREAT VICTORY IN FIELD

Failing in That Purpose, Series of Blows for Limited Objectives Now Expected.

Washington, April 15.—The turning point in the battle on the west front is being reached, says the war department's review of the military situation for the week ending April 13, published today. The Germans have failed in their purpose to achieve victory in the field, the statement continues, and will soon be forced to resume their old tactics. "We must bear in mind," the review says, "that the enemy is waging a battle of annihilation to achieve victory. He is fighting today with the sole aim of annihilating the British armies. Thus, terrain conquered counts for little."

"While it must be admitted that German operations, since the beginning of the present offensive, have resulted in more than a mere ploughing up of part of the allied trench system and the capture of local objectives along a wide front, nevertheless the aim of the German higher command to obtain a decisive strategic success by these assaults has not been attained."

Turning Point at Hand.
"The turning point in the west is being reached. The Germans have scored a distinct advantage which it (Continued on Page Ten.)

TRAINS CARRYING TIMBER BEING RUSHED

Across Continent to Shipyards Where Construction Has Been Delayed.

Washington, April 15.—Special trains carrying 50,000,000 feet of fir timber have left the Pacific coast for Atlantic and gulf ship yards, which have been delayed in turning out wooden ships by traffic tie-ups. A special arrangement between Chairman Hurley, of the shipping board, and the director-general of railways, was announced today to run the lumber supply across the continent in one-fifth the time usually required. In another month, it is expected, gulf yards will be independent of Pacific coast timber, through an adequate supply of southern pine. A survey of pine forests made for the shipping board has indicated ample standing timber to take care of the needs of all yards in that territory.

DISMISSAL SUSTAINED

High Court Upholds Decree in Suit to Recover From United States Treasury.

Washington, April 15.—Federal court decree dismissing a suit brought to recover from the United States treasury \$12,644, representing the proceeds from the sale of cotton taken over by the government during the Civil war, were today sustained by the supreme court. The claim was filed by Robert H. Thompson, of Brookhaven, Miss., heir to John S. Thompson, a former resident of Copiah county.

Tornado Strikes Texas Town; One Woman Killed

Dallas, Tex., April 15.—Reports from Gainesville and Henrietta, Tex., today said a tornado struck near Bellevue Sunday night killing Mrs. W. L. Shannon and causing such serious injuries to her husband, one son and a daughter that none is expected to recover. Many buildings were demolished. Telephone and telegraph wires in the neighborhood were down.

NORWEGIAN STEAMER HERMOD WRECKED

Philadelphia, April 15.—A report to the Maritime Exchange tells of the wreck on Saturday afternoon off the Virginia coast of the Norwegian steamer Hermod with a cargo of sugar for Philadelphia. The captain's wife and twenty-four members of the crew were taken off the wrecked ship by the Asatagua, Va., coast guard. Two of the crew were reported to have been drowned. Hermod is a total loss, together with the cargo.

ALIEN WOMEN WATCHED

Many Germans and Austrians Affected by New Bill.

Washington, April 15.—Many German and Austrian women are under surveillance by government agents and will be arrested and interned as soon as President Wilson signs the bill which includes women in the class of enemy aliens. It was said today the number is more than 100.

SUSTAINS CONVICTION OF MEN WHO ROBBED TRAIN

Washington, April 15.—Conviction of Tom Hollis and Sime Patterson, on charges of holding up and robbing a Louisville & Nashville passenger train near Black Creek, Jefferson county, Ala., on Oct. 1915, was in effect sustained today by the supreme court, which refused to review the proceedings.

ENEMY ASSAULT BENDS LINE BUT TEMPORARILY

Advance in Five Waves Weighs Down British—Counter-Blow Restores Front.

EGLISE STORM CENTER

Tommies Withdraw for Second Time From Village.

German Infantry Driven Back With Great Loss Northwest of Merville.

With the British Army in France, April 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—The battle about Neuve Eglise near the Belgian border, which has been retaken by the Germans, continued to rage this morning with the same intensity that has marked it for days and the British are pounding the Germans hard.

Another assault on Baillieu, four miles west of Neuve Eglise, is expected momentarily.

The latest reports this forenoon showed that the British line was being strongly held as a whole in this northern zone, and in some instances had been considerably improved by counter-strokes.

The British last evening followed up their success of Saturday when they pushed the Germans back from Robecq on the Clarence river. Local counter-attacks delivered on the German positions 3,000 yards to the east of this town were completely successful and the enemy again was forced to fall back somewhat.

The British in the course of the afternoon also pushed out several posts north of the canal between the Lawe and Clarence rivers.

These operations indicate that the defense of the entente allied troops has stiffened.

The battle which has been raging about Neuve Eglise has been one of the most sanguinary since the German offensive began. On Friday night the Germans succeeded, after heavy hand-to-hand fighting, in gaining possession of the town. They held it through the night, but on Saturday morning the British drove forward and pushed out the enemy.

The Germans continued to fling great numbers of troops against the defenses. Yesterday the British took the initiative and cleared the Germans from the slopes to the east and southeast of the town. The enemy kept on hammering, and after a night of severe fighting at close quarters, forced the British to abandon the village.

London, April 15.—The British have lost Neuve Eglise. Southwest of Baillieu the Germans temporarily penetrated the British positions, but were driven out by a counter-attack.

The statement follows: "Severe fighting continued all day yesterday around Neuve Eglise. After beating off numerous attacks our troops were in the end compelled to withdraw a second time from the village."

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"Strong attacks were made by the enemy yesterday afternoon at a number of other points on the battle front. Northwest of Merville fierce fighting took place as a result of which the attacking German infantry was driven back with great loss. The hostile infantry advancing along the northern bank of the Lys was caught by the force of our artillery and was unable to develop its attack."

"In the course of the day no less than seven attacks were delivered by the enemy in the Merville sector, all of which were repulsed with heavy loss of his troops. In one case the enemy advanced to the assault in five waves. Under the weight of this attack our line was bent back slightly but was completely restored by a counter-attack."

"Southwest of Baillieu parties of the enemy succeeded temporarily in penetrating our positions but were driven out by our counter-attack and our line was restored."

"Successful minor operations were carried out by us during the night east of Robecq. Several machine guns and 150 prisoners were captured by us. Fighting took place also early this morning south of the Somme in the neighborhood of Hangard. Our position in this sector has been improved and a number of prisoners have been taken. The hostile artillery was active last night in the neighborhood of Bucquoy."